



Upper Mississippi River Program

Conservation Priorities and Opportunities for Partnerships

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY PROJECTS IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN

1. Upper Mississippi River
2. Camp Rock/Lake Alexander
3. Weaver Bottoms and the Zumbro Delta
4. Pool 5 Drawdown
5. Pool 8 Drawdown
6. Baraboo Hills
7. Spring Green Bluff Prairies
8. Boone River
9. Pecatonica River Headwaters/Military Ridge
10. Mukwonago River Watershed
11. Chicago Wilderness
12. Nachusa Grasslands/Middle Rock River
13. Upper Wolf River
14. Mackinaw River
15. Emiquon
16. Cedar Glen
17. Spunky Bottoms
18. Meramec River
19. Illinois Ozarks
20. Cache River
21. State Line Sandpools
22. Donaldson Point/Reelfoot Lake
23. Lower Black River
24. Cache River/Bayou DeView
25. Chickasaw
26. Hatchie River
27. Upper Wolf River
28. Pine City Natural Area
29. Lower White River Complex
30. Lower Yazoo Basin
31. Bayou Bartholomew
32. Tenness River Basin
33. Cat Island/Tunica Hills
34. Cypress Island

Lake Tahoe, November 16, 2004



**1300 Miles from
Headwaters**

8 State Basin

190,000 Square Miles

11 Major Tributaries

30,000 Miles of Streams

Inland Waterway

Agriculture Hub

Large Floodplain Rivers:

“Mountains
of the
Midwest”



Mississippi River

Illinois River

Missouri River

*City of
St. Louis*



**State chapters
have worked for
decades...**

**...to understand and
preserve...**

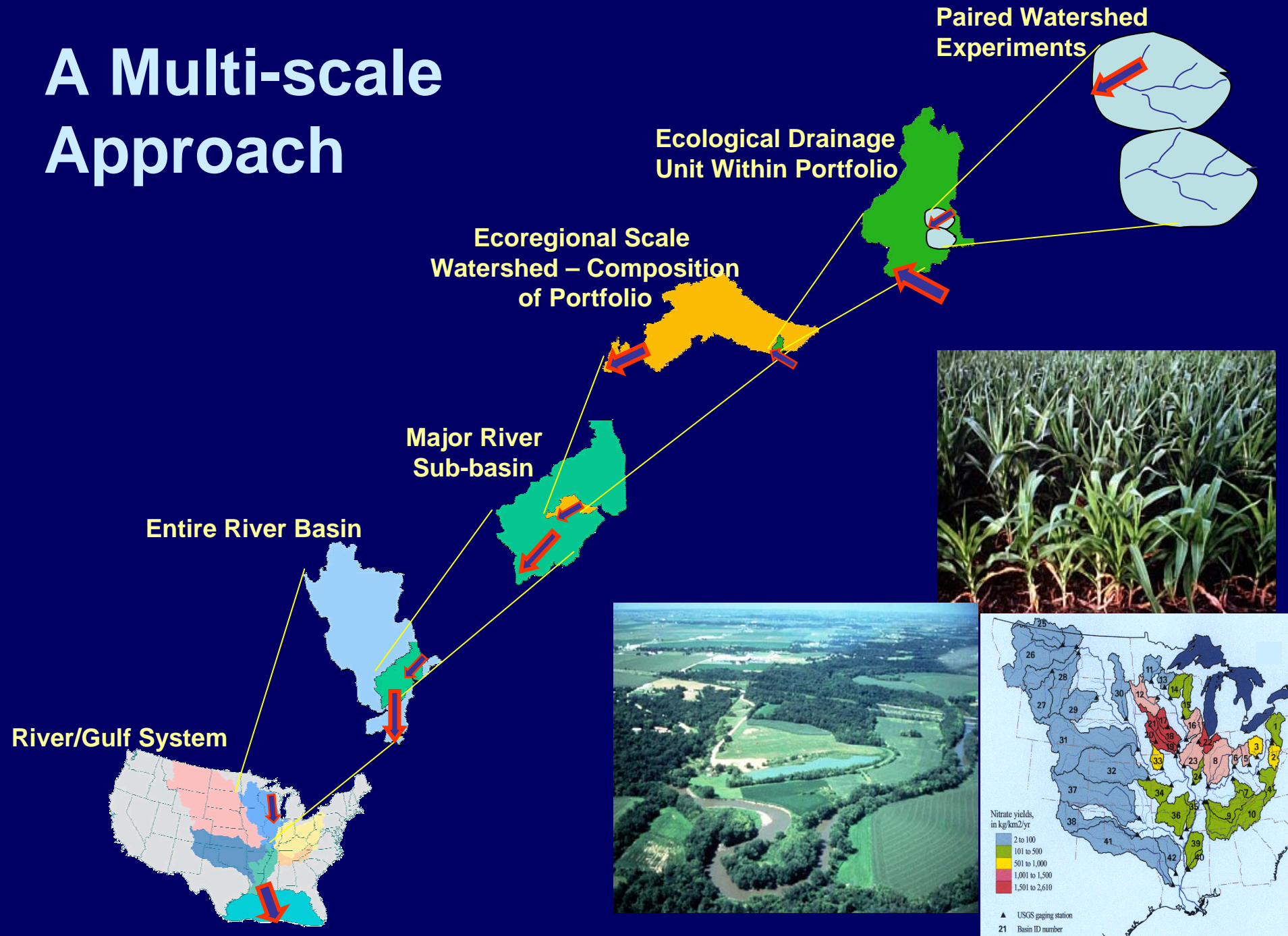


**...components of
biodiversity.**





A Multi-scale Approach





National Research Council (1992):

- Remnants of large-floodplain river systems that still exist require immediate attention
- The Mississippi River is a large-floodplain river system where a real opportunity exists to restore ecological integrity
- Conservation programs should be designed from a systems perspective, include habitat restoration as well as water quality, and focus on the relatively neglected linkage between land use and stream quality

Habitat for 286 state listed
and 36 federally listed or
candidate species
of plants
and animals

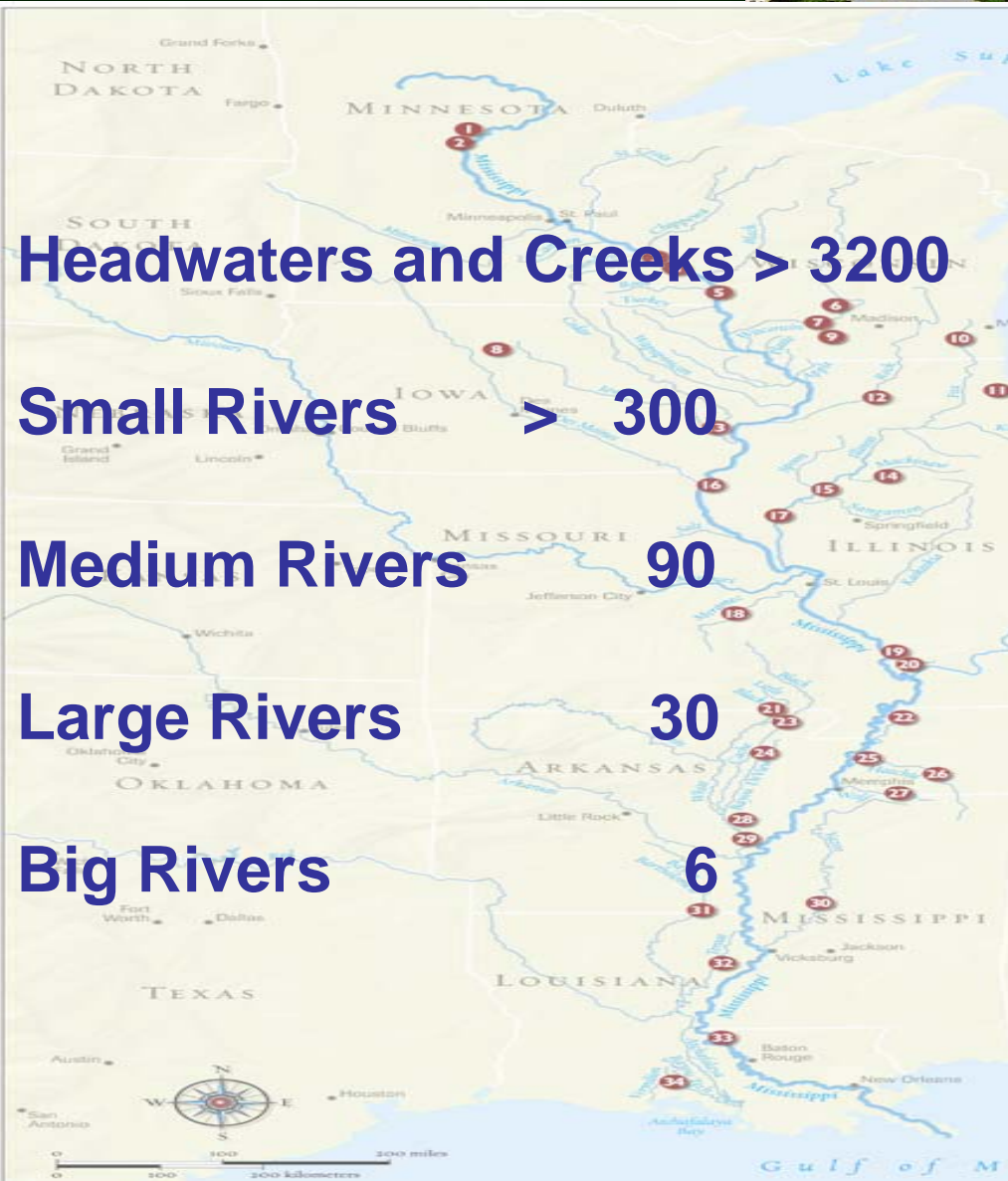


Habitat for 200 fish, 37
mussel, 45 amphibian and
reptile, and 50 mammal
species





**Globally
important flyway
for 326 bird
species (60% of
North American
species and 40%
of its waterfowl)**



Conservation Priorities for Freshwater Biodiversity in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

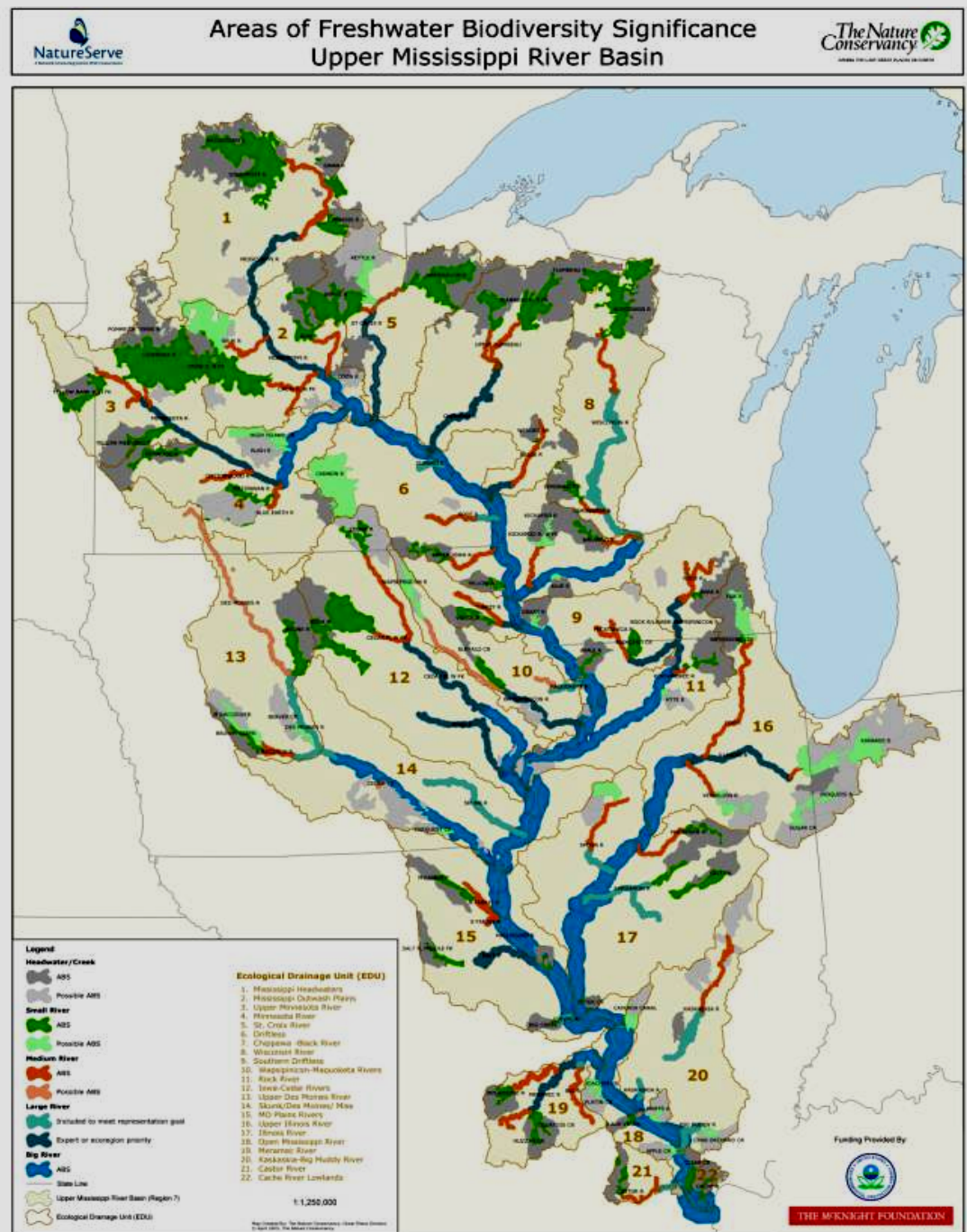


NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy

July 2003

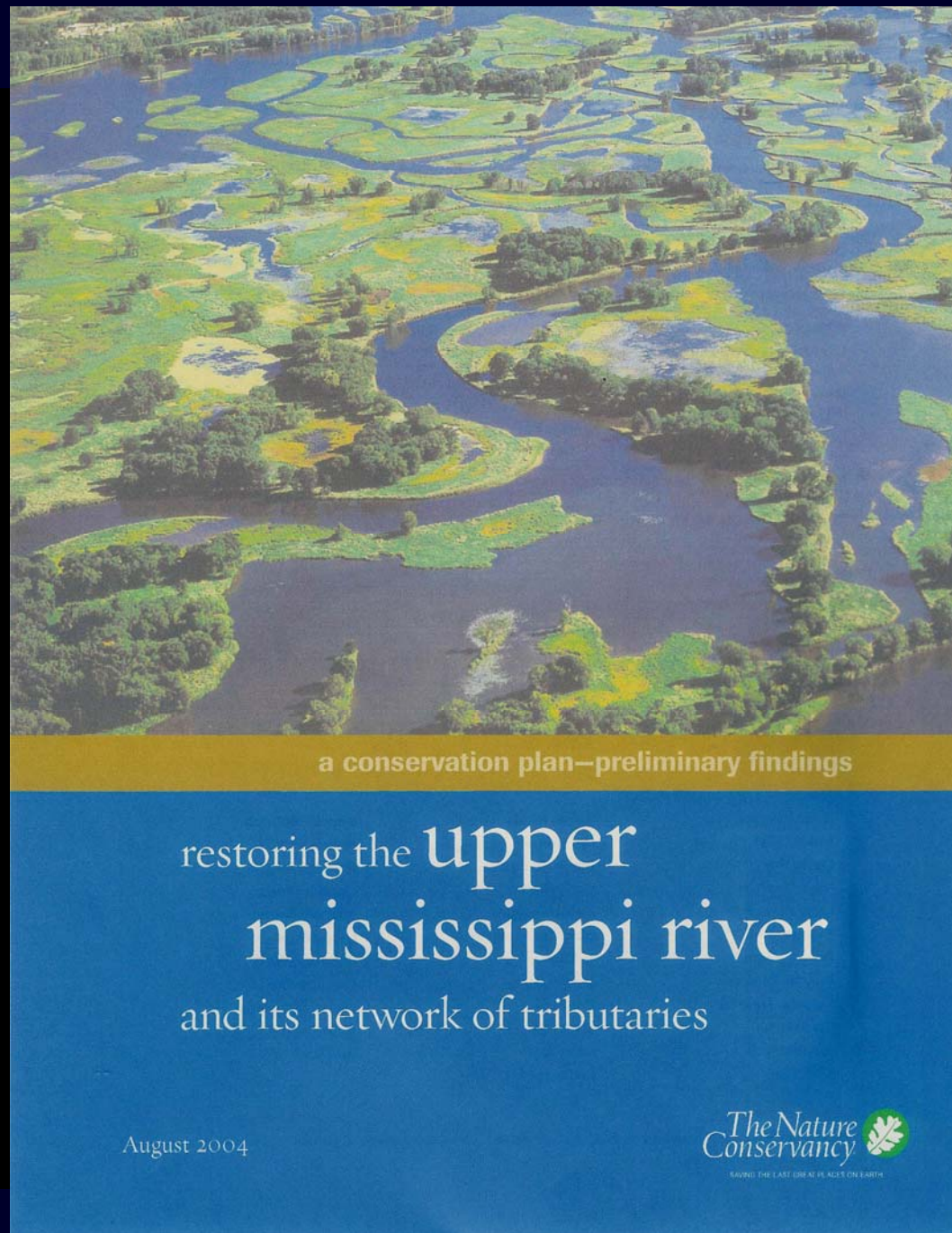
Freshwater Systems Classification and Prioritization

- Examples of all representative freshwater systems, and
- Rare and imperiled species, at
- Best existing occurrences, with
- Emphasis on connectivity



Conservation Plan - Preliminary Results

- Systemic conservation targets
- Status Assessment
- Threats Evaluation
- Strategies Identified





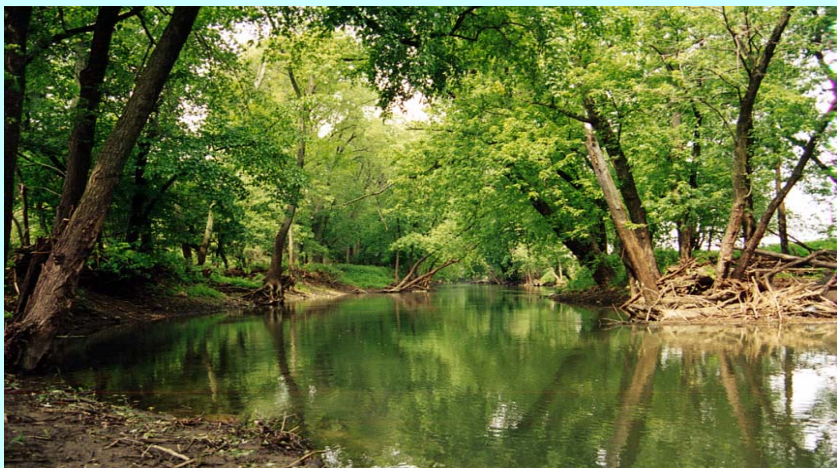
Bluff prairies and woodlands

Ebonyshell mussel



Systemic Conservation Targets

Main Channel communities



Nine major tributary types

Floodplain communities



Operation/Maintenance of waterway system



Invasive species



Climate change



Incompatible agricultural field practices



Loss/isolation of floodplain habitats



Systemic Conservation Strategies

- Restore critical river-floodplain habitats at larger scales
- Implement more systemic water management
- Restore north-south migratory passages
- Control invasive species

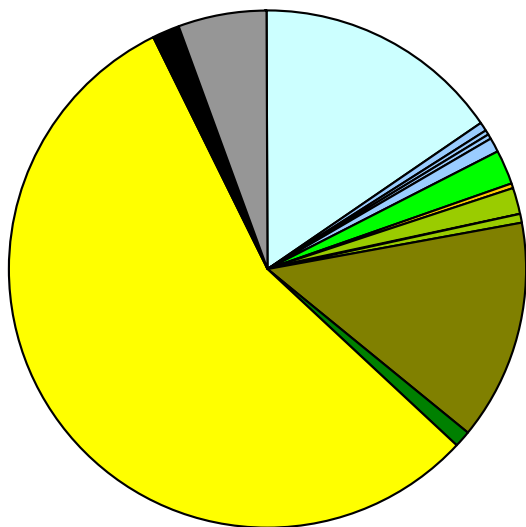


Navigation System



Floodplain Alteration

Reach 2 Land Cover



Minneapolis

La Crosse

Dubuque

Rock Island

Peoria

St. Louis

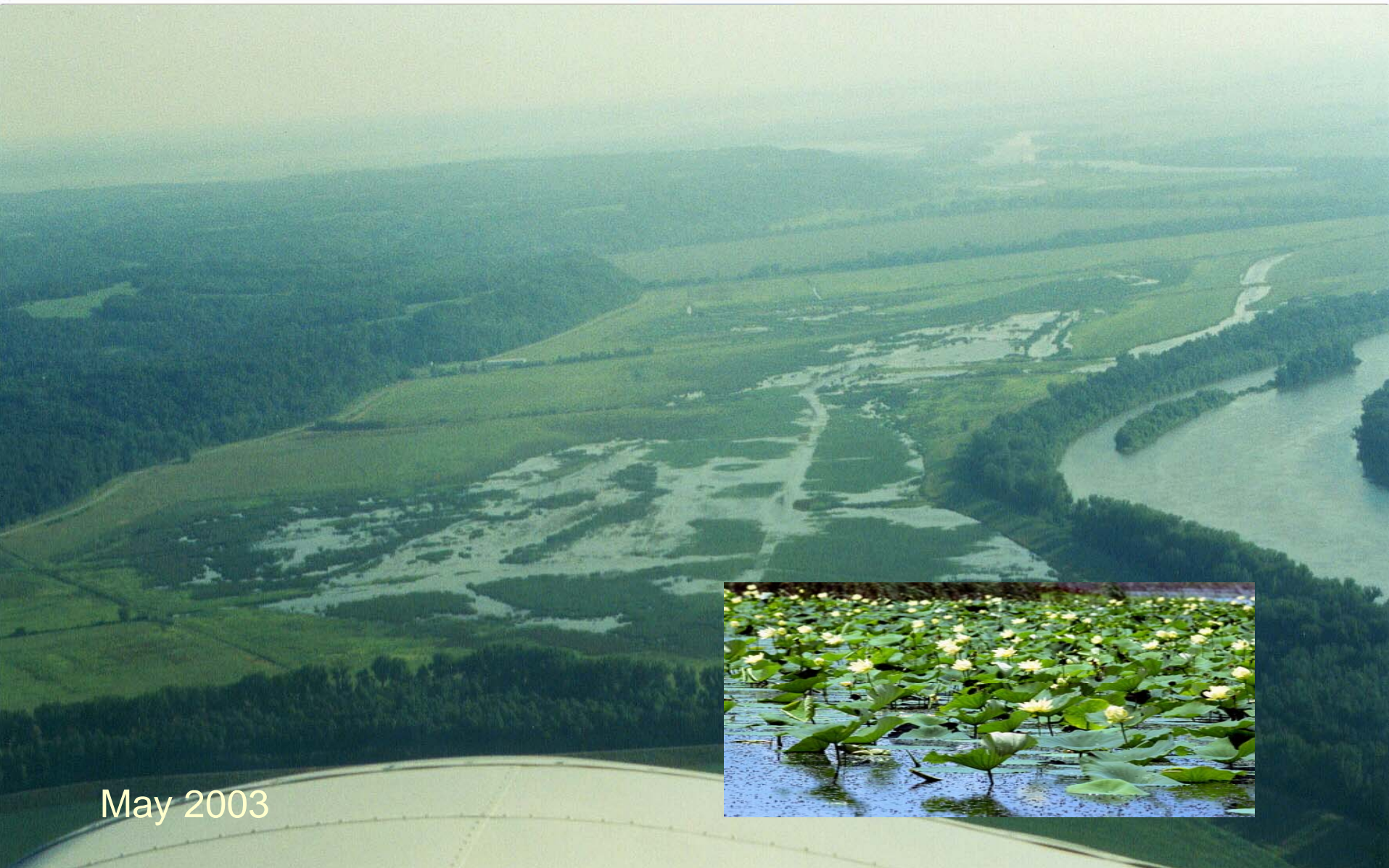
Cape Girardeau



Opportunities for Partnership

- Cost-share on floodplain restoration
- Support Corps programs through lobbying and education
- Share science expertise to fill in gaps and implement systemic adaptive management
- Regional MOU facilitates partnership

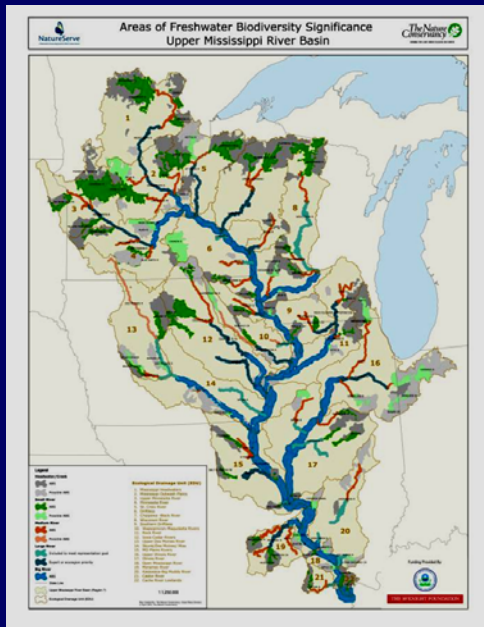




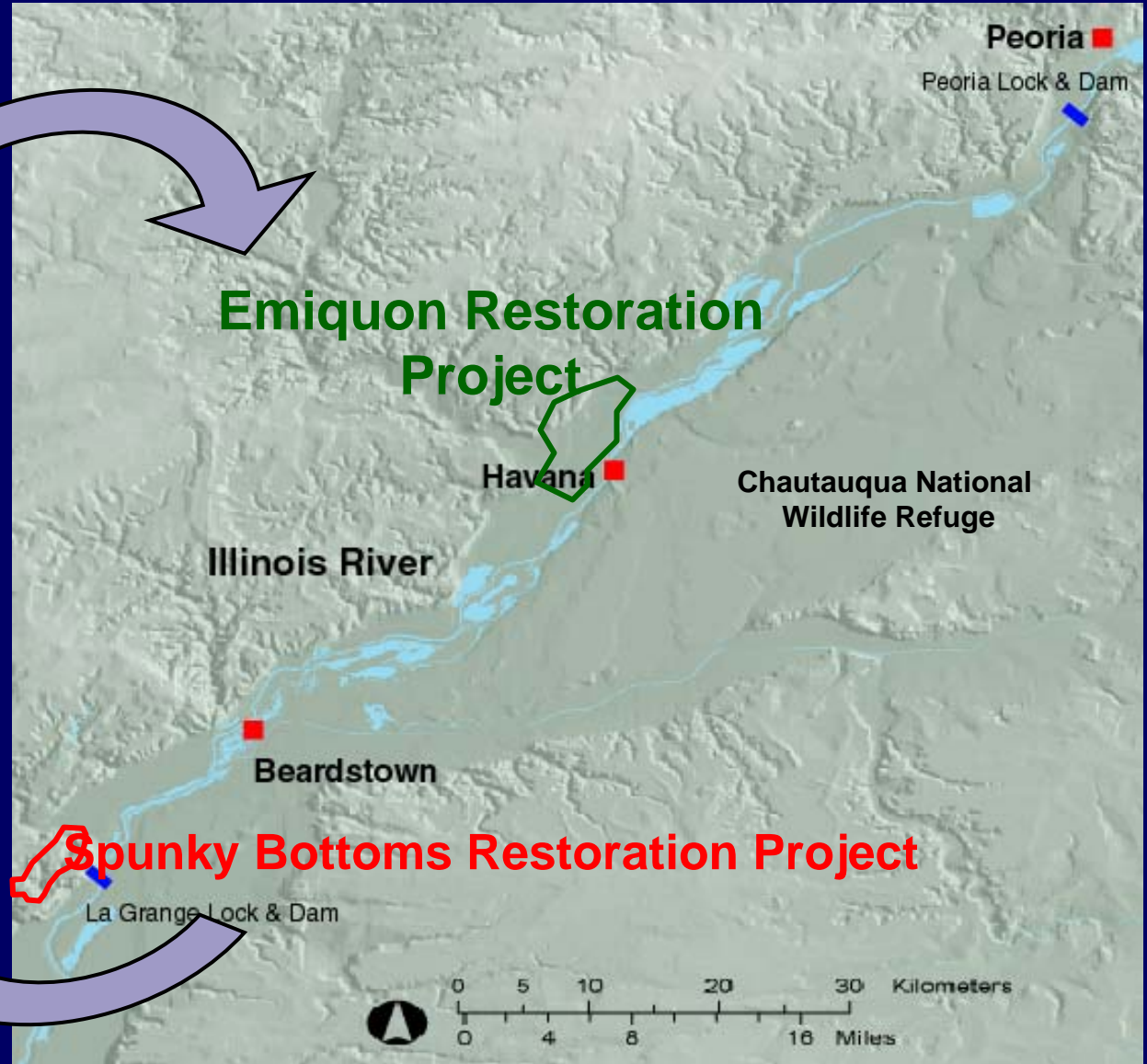
May 2003



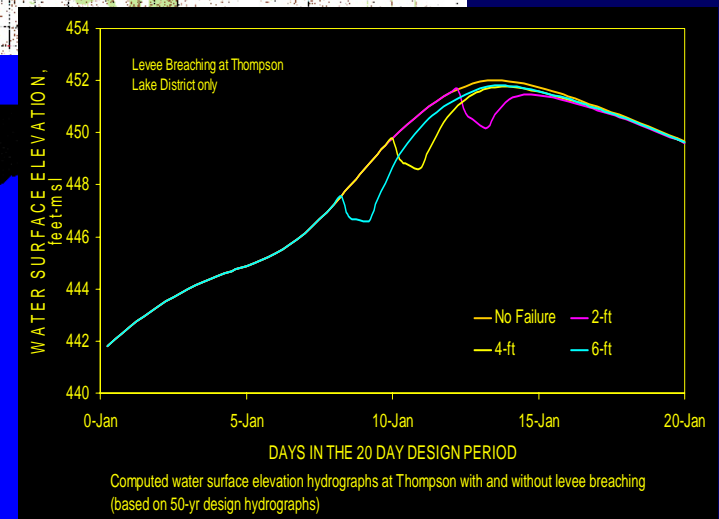
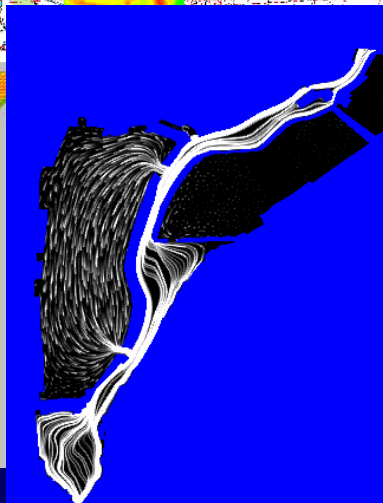
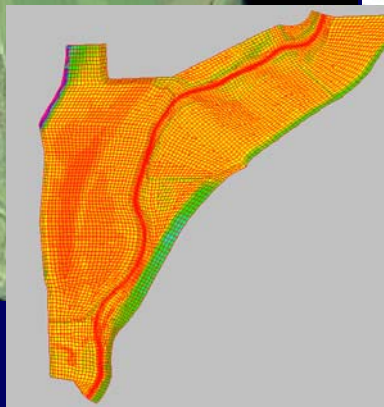
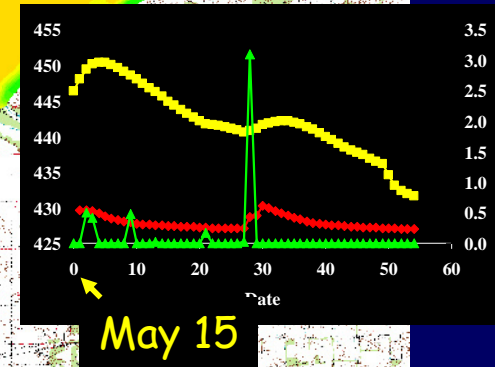
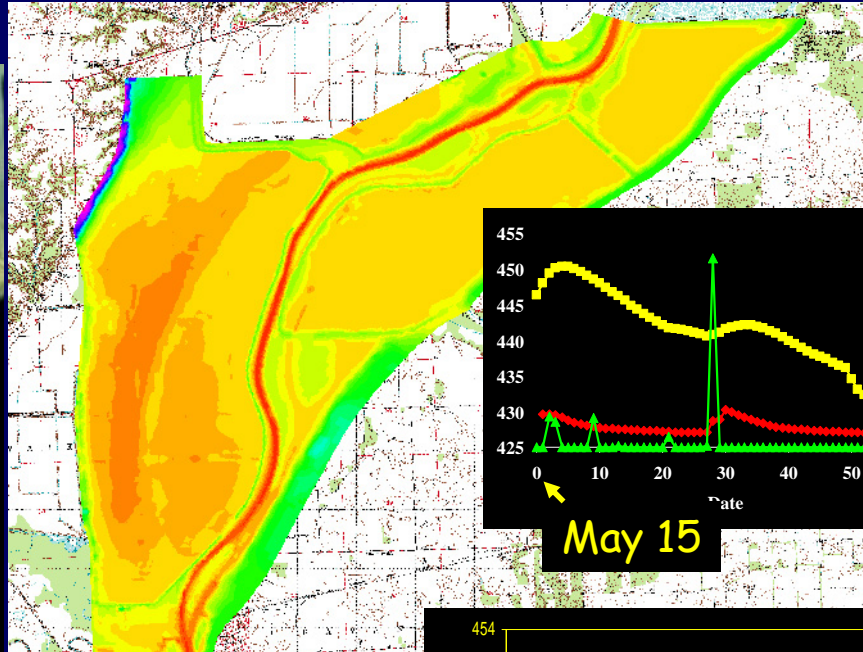
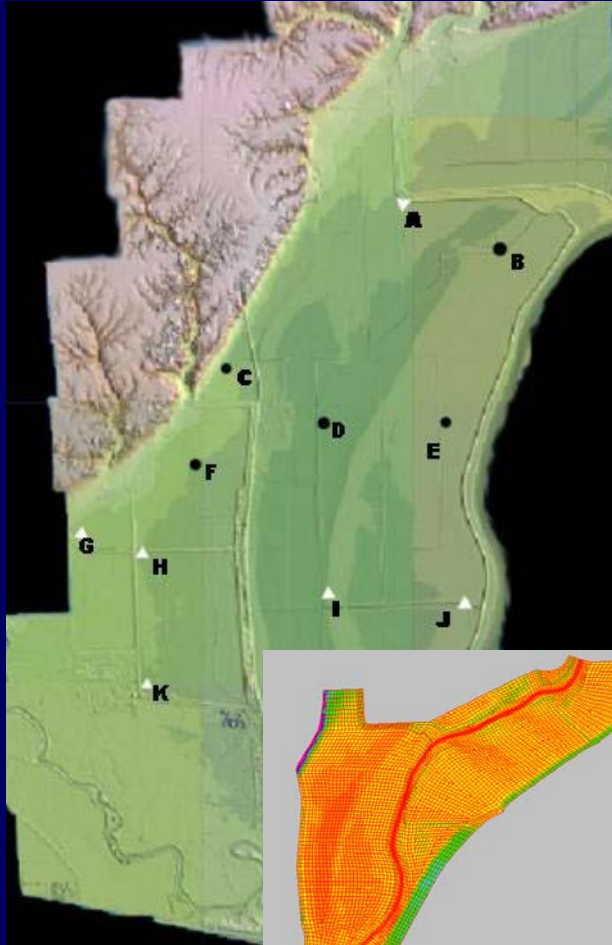
**Demonstrating at a
landscape scale...**



**...to
replicate at a
basin scale**



Science - Understanding Flooding





Policy - Money and More

- **Environmental Management Program**
 - Lobbying for appropriations
 - Seeking changes to authority
- **New authority for ecosystem restoration**
 - Lobbying for authorizing legislation
 - Briefings to educate



